In the beginning Emma had little interest in politics but did not object to my activities. Yet marriage may have weakened my ties with local S-D circles. I had my home now, and Emma had no urge to establish new acquaintances. Moreover, the political climate in Irkutsk was changing rapidly. The new conditions were not favorable for publishing a new magazine or for any other collective action, but they offered possibilities for individual action, such as speeches in public and semi-public meetings. In this way I carried on the campaign of the *Siberian Journal* against official flag-waving patriotism—instead I defended the idea of a just negotiated peace. Of course, I had to choose my words when speaking publicly, just as I had in meetings before the election of the Duma in Petrograd, but this was not a serious obstacle. I could express my views clearly enough. In general I continued my political activity openly, as if I were sure of my rights, to the dismay of the gendarmes, who were reluctant to take drastic measures against me after the scandal over the sentence they had tried to impose upon me through the police court.

I mailed Emma's picture to my mother and was surprised by her answer. She expressed a hope that everything would turn out all right, but I could read between lines that she was worried. I sent her another photograph, showing Emma and me together. Then she wrote that she no longer was worried about my future and confessed that she had been rather scared by the first picture. In her broad black and white hat, Emma had seemed to her too glamorous a girl for her son in Siberia. A few weeks later my father came to Irkutsk to visit me and meet his new daughter-in-law. He looked much older than when I had last seen him, and I was quite surprised to hear him say I had not changed greatly in the intervening decade. It seemed that more than ten years separated me from the time I had left the capital.

PORTENTS OF THE REVOLUTION

This was the autumn of 1916, a time of confusion and growing tension. The air was full of rumors. The government tried to minimize the significance of continuing defeats and retreats of the Russian armies. The war bulletins spoke of successful regroupments of troops, readjustments of defense lines, evacuation of overexposed and strategically worthless positions. But in every home was a map of the theater of military operations and people realized that the armies of the Tsar were losing every engagement on the front from the Baltic to the Black Sea. The fact that the Tsar had removed his uncle from the Supreme Command of all armed forces and assumed personal control